



# Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Newsletter

## Celebrating the NPS Centennial!

### 100 Days of Rangers & Passport Book



This summer we are launching two exciting new ways to explore the Blackstone Valley. To celebrate the NPS Centennial, we have "100 Days of Rangers" from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Also, we are proud to introduce the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park Passport Book.

Each day, for 100 days, a Park Ranger will be somewhere in the National Historical Park. They will be giving talks, leading fun

activities, offering boat rides, working with partners, and doing all the great things that Rangers do. See our Facebook page ([fb.com/BlackstoneNPS](https://fb.com/BlackstoneNPS)) to find out where we will be today.

Take a picture in the park and use hashtag #Blackstone100 for a chance at having your image featured in the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park 100 days poster. The poster will be available at partner sites and on the park's website after Labor Day.



The Passport Book is a great way to get to know the areas of the park. The pages of this free Passport Book have a space to stamp or "cancel" the date and location of your visit. After you have collected all of the stamps, present your completed Passport Book to celebrate your #nps6for6 achievement. You can pick up your Passport Book starting June 26 at any of the locations listed on the homepage of the park website or visit: [Go.nps.gov/BLRV/Passport](https://Go.nps.gov/BLRV/Passport).

670 Linwood Avenue  
Whitinsville, MA 01588  
508-234-4242

One Depot Square  
Woonsocket, RI 02895  
401-762-0250  
[nps.gov/BLRV](https://nps.gov/BLRV)  
[fb.com/BlackstoneNPS](https://fb.com/BlackstoneNPS)

**2016**  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL



## New Faces at the Park!



**Allison Horrocks** is a DOI VISTA volunteer serving as Outreach Coordinator for both the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and Blackstone Heritage Corridor. Allison's work is focused on connecting valley residents with park and partner programs and resources, building capacity for both organizations through grant writing and community engagement, and diving into all aspects of National Park Service and non-profit operations and management. She is looking forward to learning about the Valley from the people who call it home. Allison can be reached at [blackstonevista@gmail.com](mailto:blackstonevista@gmail.com)



**Leah Burgin** is a second-year Masters candidate in the Public Humanities program at Brown University studying how cultural institutions engage the public through interpretation and informal education. She is especially interested in interdisciplinary teaching and learning, bringing experience from several Washington D.C. museums. Having recently moved to Rhode Island, Leah looks forward to learning more about the region's history during her work this summer as a Park Guide at Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park.



**Dandridge "Dan" Catus** came to the National Park Service after several seasonal appointments with the Veteran's Administration, most recently serving as a Medical Support Assistant and on the maintenance team. Dan is a Veteran who served in the Navy for eight years spending some of that time in Bermuda. He is just a few credits shy of a Bachelor of Science degree in both Psychology and Sociology at Providence College. Dan is excited about joining the maintenance team at Blackstone and interacting with all the people who visit the park.

## What's Happening in the New Park?

### Stakeholder Meetings



The park held two stakeholder meetings in May in an effort to update park partners on the progress made this year in getting the new park off the ground. The meetings were held at Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and Alternatives in Whitinsville (Northbridge,

Massachusetts). These meetings provided an opportunity for park staff to introduce themselves and their roles, for Superintendent Meghan Kish to update partners on all that is going on with the park, and to answer questions about next steps related to the park's

development. As part of the meetings, participants were asked to describe their vision for the park over the next 5-10 years. Discussion was lively and responses will help to inform the park's strategic planning documents.



# Explore the Blackstone River Valley!

## Get Out on the River!



The Blackstone River water levels are up thanks to a rainy spring! Get your boats and gear ready for some summer paddling. We are teaming up with our partners for some real adventures.

Becoming a member of the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club is a great way to improve your canoeing and kayaking skills, learn about the wide range of paddling opportunities in the Blackstone River Valley



and meet new friends.

The Paddle Club's 2016 schedule is available at [RICKA.org](http://RICKA.org) and Park Rangers will be joining in for a few of the trips.

If you are looking for a more laid-back, on-the-river experience, take a ride on the Blackstone Valley Explorer operated by park partner the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. The 40 passenger

tour boat brings you along for a relaxing nature cruise down the Blackstone River.

See the beauty of the nation's "hardest working river" while learning about its ecology and history. You may even get a chance to see the swan, heron, hawks, and turtles that live along this renewed waterway.

For more information or how to purchase tickets, visit [rivertourblackstone.com](http://rivertourblackstone.com)

## Summer Programs

### Ranger Walkabout Series



Come along on a free Ranger Walkabout this summer as part of the "100 Days of Rangers" in the Blackstone Valley and explore the historic, cultural, and natural resources that are part of the new

National Historical Park. The full Ranger Walkabout schedule is listed on our website [go.nps.gov/RangerWalkabouts](http://go.nps.gov/RangerWalkabouts) and on our Facebook page [fb.com/BlackstoneNPS](https://fb.com/BlackstoneNPS).



## Engaging with Youth

### Congratulations to the Hopedale Daisy Scout Troop

In March, Daisy Scout Troop 11582 of Hopedale, MA earned their Resource Stewardship Girl Scout Ranger awards. They learned about the Blackstone Valley, took a walking tour, and volunteered 107 hours of community service. Special thanks to our partners at the Little Red Shop for hosting the ceremony.

If your troop is interested in the Scout Ranger Program, contact Suzanne Buchanan at [sbuchanan@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org](mailto:sbuchanan@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org) or by calling 508-234-4242.

For more information visit [Go.nps.gov/ScoutRanger](http://Go.nps.gov/ScoutRanger) and [Go.nps.gov/GirlScoutsRanger](http://Go.nps.gov/GirlScoutsRanger).





## Partner Spotlight: Whitinsville

### A Talk with Ted Kozak, Town Manager, Northbridge, MA



Whitinsville, a mill village named in the park's legislation, is located in the town of Northbridge, MA.

**Ted, what has your involvement been with planning for the new park?**

I have been very involved with the town departments and our partners, like the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce,

in planning for the new park because it ties our whole industrial story together. The Planning Board, in particular, is very interested in seeing how the new park can assist in preserving the great Castle Hill Farm landscape. As a town, we are interested in preserving our many historic structures that make the town a great place to visit.

**What improvements have been made in the town in advance of the new park coming?**

We have been able to expand bus service down to the Linwood Mill, connecting the town center to that historic mill. However, parking is

always an issue and places for buses to turn around and park are a real need that requires our attention.

**How do you see the park improving on the great things already going on in Northbridge?**

We are looking forward to having the park rangers in town as we see the park being a great vehicle for the town to connect to its significant historical past. We also see the schools as playing a major role in helping the town connect with its history through its curriculum. So, absolutely, we see a lot of promise in having the new park grow in our community.

## Volunteer Program

### Paddle Club Wins Prestigious Award



We are pleased to announce that our partner, the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club, has won a Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Northeast Region. The club, under the leadership of lead VIP Cheryl Thompson, conducts paddle trips and

training nights for visitors to the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and National Historical Park. Last year, the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club volunteers conducted 16 paddle trips and three training nights throughout the Corridor. The

group works with Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park staff to host collaborative paddles with the Blackstone River Watershed Association.

In announcing the award, National Park Service Northeast Regional Director Michael Caldwell stated that, "The contribution of these volunteers exemplify the spirit of volunteerism and a deep commitment to national parks. They demonstrate the power of collaboration, the value of partnerships, the importance of serving communities, and what determination and dedication can accomplish."

### You Can Help!

#### *The park needs volunteers, and we want you!*

Help us preserve, protect, and interpret the historical, cultural, natural, and recreational resources of Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. Whether it is a single morning pitching in at a riverside clean up or presenting a walking tour, volunteers play a critical role in making the park a success.

The park volunteer program is managed in collaboration with our partner Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. If you are interested in joining us as an individual or as a group, please contact Park Ranger Kevin Klyberg by phone at 401-762-0250 ext. 5501, by email [kevin\\_klyberg@nps.gov](mailto:kevin_klyberg@nps.gov) or send a note to [volunteer@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org](mailto:volunteer@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org).

